

Habitat Happenings



News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • November/December 2013

Serving nature and you

View from a Deer Stand

Connecting with nature and observing your surroundings.

Unaware they are being watched; chipmunks scurry about the forest floor looking for acorns and hickory nuts that have dropped from the trees. Squirrels scamper up, around, and down the many oaks that surround me making a ruckus with their leaf rustling and sharp twitters. Chickadees flit about from here to there almost reaching me before flying away. Welcome to my tree stand. While patiently waiting for a white-tailed deer to walk into view, I have observed many unsuspecting animals pass under my stand such as a wandering coyote, a lumbering armadillo, and a three toed box turtle. I also have had the pleasure of sharing my tree with pileated woodpeckers, curious squirrels, and interesting insects.

Hunting, for me, isn't only about getting a deer for the freezer (although that's important, too). For me, it is about immersing myself in the outdoors. Since becoming a hunter (or huntress), I have seen wildlife and plants that I might have never experienced. Frost flowers are a prize to be found while walking out to my stand and I have only viewed them on the coldest of November mornings. I have had a staring contest with a beautiful gray fox before he broke eye contact

and ran away. A rotting log covered with turkey tail fungi and lush green moss is near my stand, and I pay close attention wondering if anything is going to crawl out of it and what that might be. Because of my curiosity, it's become tradition to explore the log before leaving my area for lunch.

While watching and waiting for a deer to come along, I listen to the sounds around me. What I'm listening for among the stirring autumn leaves is a grunt...a snort...a stamping of a hoof. This gets my heart racing. Turning toward the noise, I search

among the browns, yellows, and reds that color the forest at this time of year to view the deer from my stand. It's exhilarating whether I'm able to get a shot or not.

Hunting is more than hunting. It's connecting and immersing yourself in the outdoors. Even if you do not hunt, take the time to climb up into a friend/family member's tree stand. Enjoy the view, take it in, and let nature reveal itself.

—Becky Matney,
Naturalist



Volunteer News

Created by Nature's Needlers

Nature's Needlers is a volunteer-led monthly program. The fabric art they create is inspired by nature. In 2011 and 2012, the focus was on Missouri wildflowers and butterflies. Some of their creations were displayed in the lobby at Runge during the month of September. It was as beautiful and varied as nature!



Volunteer Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for the hours of service donated to the Runge Nature Center.

100 hours – Kimberlyn Eversman and Crystal Lueckenhoff

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located on 97 acres in the heart of central Missouri. Come discover and enjoy the wonders of Missouri's habitats and its array of fish, forests, and wildlife. Runge CNC is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179 (330 Commerce Dr.).

HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM
Closed Sunday, Monday, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

TRAIL HOURS:

Open 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Exhibitors

November/December

Winter Photography

by Anne Lindgren



This photography display features the work of Anne Lindgren and focuses on the beauty found in the winter landscape composed of seed heads. Here is a short poem that highlights why Lindgren chose seed heads:

"Weed Study: A Meditation"

Looking beyond the obvious...

See its strength.

Supporting the bloom in procreation,

Protecting seed to maturity.

Understand its impermanent

yet transformativ nature,

Feeding wildlife and starting anew in Spring.

In the moment, open to seeing,

Reveals the weed to be a beautiful bouquet.

Anne Lindgren (annelindgrendesign.com) continuously works on developing her artistic voice from her studio in the Ozarks. Using thoughtful composition, dramatic contrast and a concentration on the focal plan, Lindgren's images come together for an energy-producing visual experience. Anne is a juried member of "The Best of Missouri Hands" for photography and a long-standing member of the Meramec Hill Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist.

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.



Robin Grumm showing children a snake up-close and personal. These programs encourage parent and child participation in experiencing the outdoors.



discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

REMINDER!

Parents/Guardians, when signing up for the **Little Acorns** programs please bring only the child(ren) that fall within the 3 to 6 years of age. This allows the Naturalist to provide a quality program to your child. Thank you.

Little Acorns Programs

November

Registration begins November 1st
573-526-5544

Good Day, Good Night!

It's light outside and some animals are sleeping. Wear your p.j.'s if you'd like and we'll pretend it's nighttime while we learn about nocturnal animals. Shhhhhhhhh. Don't wake them up!

November 9 • Saturday • 10 AM
November 13 • Wednesday • 10 AM
November 21 • Thursday • 10 AM

December

Registration begins December 2nd
573-526-5544

Animal Wrappers

People wrap up in pants, shirts, winter coats, hats, and mittens. What do animals wear? Animals definitely do NOT wear clothing. Find out what they do wear this month.

December 12 • Thursday • 10 AM
December 14 • Saturday • 10 AM
December 17 • Tuesday • 10 AM

BABES IN THE WOODS and LITTLE ACORNS PLUS programs are taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April newsletter.

Runge Calendar of Events - November

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



November Events

Registration begins November 1.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Toddler Time

November 12 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
No registration required (ages 0-3 years)
Enjoy nature with your little one through stories, songs, and animals. Plan to get outside with us too!

Handcrafted Papermaking Naturally

November 14 • Thursday • 5:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (Women 18+)
Ladies night out! Women start your blenders! Learn to make paper from start to finish. You create the look you want! You will learn to pulp, pour, pull, and press your own sheet of paper. From trash to treasure, you will design several handmade sheets of paper and create Christmas ornaments!

Homeschool: Handcrafted Papermaking Naturally

November 15 • Friday • 2–4 PM
Registration required (ages 9 and older)
We will blend newspaper, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with pieces of nature - seeds, leaves, petals, snake skin, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring a metal sheet cake pan, several magazines and a bath size towel.

Story Tree (Storytime)

November 16 • Saturday • 10–11 AM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center between 10 and 11AM and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

What's Going On?: Handcrafted Papermaking Naturally

November 16 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (7 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)
Refer to November 15th for program description.

Nature's Needlers

November 21 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18+)
The adjectives to describe the cypress tree are many: massive, tapered, gnarled, mysterious. Join us and learn much more about this tree with "knees", and receive the eleventh quilt block in the *Wetlands* series.

What's Going On? Oh Deer!

November 23 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Leap into the nature center and get to know Missouri's White-tailed deer. This beloved mammal has bounced back through conservation efforts and continues to be a favorite for hunters and nature lovers alike. Find out what makes deer so *dear* through activities and discovery tables.

Shopping Alternatives: Duck, Duck, Goose

November 29 • Friday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Duck in from holiday shopping crowds and hang out at Runge. We will enter the world of waterfowl. Our **Duck, Duck, Goose** event will teach you how to identify waterfowl, their flyways, and calls. You're the "cooked" goose if you don't join in the fun.

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers are volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Midweek Trekkers: Woodson K. Woods Memorial Conservation Area

November 20 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (adults)
This month we'll travel to Woodson K. Woods Memorial Conservation Area is southeast of St. James on Highway 8 and hike the South Loop (5 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

The Runge Hiking Club: Long Branch State Park

November 23 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (adults)
Join us as we travel to Long Branch State Park located near Macon. We'll hike the Bee Trace Trail (3.5 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

Trail rating system

*Easiest trail **Moderately Easy
***Moderate
****Moderately Difficult
*****Difficult

Runge Conservation Nature Center will be closed
on the following days:
Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

December Events

Registration begins December 2nd

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Toddler Time

December 10 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM
No registration required (ages 0–3 years)
Enjoy nature with your little one through stories, songs, and animals. Plan to get outside with us too!

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Avian Population Responses to Climate Change and Human Processes in Micronesia

December 12 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM
No registration required (adults)
Join us for this fascinating presentation by Pablo Oleiro, a Master's student in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at the University of Missouri. The island of Pohnpei in Micronesia exemplifies the biodiversity in the Pacific Ocean. The island supports mangroves and the world's lowest cloud forest. The forest provides habitats for more than 30 bird species, including 6 endemic species to Pohnpei. The goal of his research is to understand how bird populations respond to climate change and human processes, and to identify which factors will have a great effect on bird populations. You will also enjoy seeing the beauty of Micronesia!

Homeschool: Name That Bird

December 13 • Friday • 1–2:30 PM
Registration required (ages 7 and older)
Learn to "Name That Bird" using the phrase, "Where, Where, What, Big, Shape, YOU, Color. It will teach you how to identify Missouri winter birds by their habitat, behavior, shapes, and colors. This program has an outdoor component. Please dress for the weather.

Homeschool: Winter Backyard Birds

December 13 • Friday • 1–2 PM
Registration required (ages 3–6 years)
Backyard winter birds are fun to watch. Fly in to learn and view these feather fluffing friends. This program has an outdoor component. Please dress for the weather.

Story Tree (Storytime)

December 14 • Saturday • 1–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center between 10 and 11AM and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Nature's Needlers

December 19 • Thursday •
10:30 AM–Noon • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18+)
The beaver is busy. It is the construction worker of the wetlands. Join us to learn more about this mammal and receive the final block in the **Wetlands** series.

What's Going On?

Fox Fun

December 21 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Discovery table and activities will focus on Missouri's foxes. Sly and secretive the Red and Grey Foxes are common in our natural communities.

2013 Holiday Happenings: Nature by Design

December 27 • Friday • 10 AM–3 PM
December 28 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Holiday Happenings is often referred to as our *Open House*. People are off work, children are home from school, friends and family members are visiting and we have fun organized activities going on. Refer to back page for more details.

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers are volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Midweek Trekkers: Little Dixie Conservation Area

December 18 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (adults)
We will travel to **Little Dixie Conservation Area** in Callaway County (7 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

The Runge Hiking Club: Lake of the Ozarks State Park

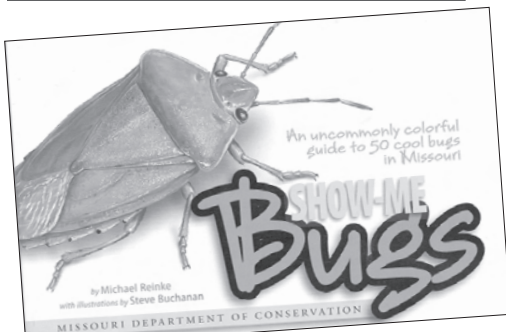
December 14 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (adults)
Lake of the Ozark State Park is located near Osage Beach. We will hike the **Woodland Trail** (6 miles, ***) and then hike the **Lake View Bend Trail** (1.5 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

Winter Day Adventure for KIDS

December 31 • Tuesday • 9 AM–3 PM
Registration required (ages 9–12 years)
Winter Day Adventure is for YOU! Come celebrate the year with "seasoned" naturalists exploring and discovering nature at Runge on and off the trails. Identify an animal track; learn to read a trail map; read animals signs; peer into a frozen pond; climb on a 150 year old log. Please dress for the weather. Bring a lunch and water bottle. We will come indoors for activities and to warm up with hot cocoa.

Gift Shop

20% off featured item for November and December



These two books are \$6.36 plus tax. The Heritage Card does not apply.

2014 Calendar

The 2014 Natural Events Calendar has arrived. \$7.00 plus tax. The Heritage Card does apply.



MDC Free Regional Workshops

Discover Nature:

Rifle "Sight-In" Day

November 9 • Saturday • 8 AM–12 PM

(all ages) Get ready for deer season by "sighting in" your favorite deer rifle at Scrivner Road Conservation Area shooting range. This is a free event open to the public. Hunter Education staff will be on hand to help you safely sight in your rifles to make that great shot on opening day. Free coffee and doughnuts will be served in the parking lot. Targets provided.

Location: Scrivner Road Conservation Area shooting range – South of Russellville on Route AA, then east on Scrivner Road. Turn left on Scott Road. For more information contact Brian Flowers at 573-815-7901 ext. 3388 or e-mail at Brian.Flowers@mdc.mo.gov.

For additional information about these Regional workshops contact:

Central Regional Office and Conservation Research Center 3500 E. Gans Road, Columbia, MO 65201 Phone: 573-815-7900 Fax: 573-815-7902

Boy Scout Packs

Check out a Pack and Discover Nature

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs.

Wolf Cub: Elective #13 - Birds

Bear Cub: Achievement #5 - Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist and Forester Pack(s). Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirement.

Looking Ahead!

Teen Club: Fly Tying January 3 • Friday • 1 PM

Eagle Adventure January 25 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

•Live Eagle Presentations •Eagle Viewing Sites with High-powered scopes.
More details in the January/February issue.

What's Going On? Programs and activities at Runge Nature Center

Every Saturday At Runge 10 AM–2 PM *No registration required (all ages)*

The Runge Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.



Conservation Kids' club is a club created for kids 6-12 years who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Musky Mustelids

November 19 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (November 1 through November 15)

Musky mustelids typically have short legs, round ears, thick fur, and scent glands that secrete a strong odor. Don't be shy, weasel your way in to Conservation Kids' Club and learn about this mammal family.



No December meeting as Bubba is spending time with his family. See you next year.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, November 19. **Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

2013 Holiday Happenings

Nature by Design



December 27 • Friday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 28 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Holiday Happenings is often referred to as our *Open House*. People are off from work, children are home from school, friends and family members are visiting and we have fun activities going on.

Our theme this year is **Nature by Design**. Winter is a great time to SEE nature in new ways and it often sparks creativity. Discover nature through...



- *I Spy Nature Games*
- *Natural Shapes Scavenger Hunt*
- *Winter Weed Arrangements*
- *Stories*
- *Crafts*
- *Refreshments*